

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 AF-04 NEA-07 NSC-05

NSCE-00 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 SSO-00

INRE-00 /057 W

----- 103670

O 290900Z MAY 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3823

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1025

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR XO CH

REF: STATE 123690

SUMMARY: WHILE PRC PUBLIC POSITION IS UNFAVORABLE, USLO BELIEVES THAT ITS PRIVATE POSITION IS FAVORABLE, AND THAT PRIVATE POSITION CAN BE SAFELY ALLUDED TO IN OPEN TESTIMONY. END SUMMARY.

1. LATEST AUTHORITATIVE PRC PUBLIC POSITION USLO CAN FIND RELATING TO DIEGO GARCIA IS UNFAVORABLE. HSINHUA "CORRESPONDENT" COMMENTARY ON DECEMBER 31, 1974 ENTITLED "FIERCER CONTENTION FOR WORLD HEGEMONY BETWEEN SOVIET UNION, U.S.A." STATED THAT US-SOVIET "CONTENTION FOR INDIAN OCEAN BASES WHICH WILL GIVE ONE SUPERIORITY OVER THE OTHER HAS LATELY INTENSIFIED." STATEMENT CAME IN CONTEXT OF LENGTHY ARTICLE SUMMING UP 1974 AS YEAR IN WHICH SUPERPOWER CONTENTION FOR WORLD DOMINATION HAD "SPREAD WEST TO CYPRUS
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AND EAST TO THE PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN." OTHER MORE

RECENT NCNA ITEMS HARPING ON US-SOVIET COMPETITION IN IDENTICAL MANNER INDICATE PRESENT PUBLIC POSTURE PRC WOULD ASSUME ON DIEGO GARCIA REMAINS AS STATED IN DECEMBER 31 ARTICLE, I.E., THAT EXPANSION OF BASE FACILITIES IS ONE MORE MANIFESTATION OF INTENSIFYING SUPERPOWER RIVALRY UNDER COLLAPSING FACADE OF DETENTE.

2. PRC PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, MUST BE READ IN THE CONTEXT OF PEKING'S ATTACKS ON "HEGEMONISM" AND AS A PART OF THE SINO-SOVIET POLEMIC. ALTHOUGH USLO RECALLS NO RECENT AUTHORITATIVE PRIVATE PRC STATEMENTS ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY TO DIEGO GARCIA AND ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT BOTH ARE VIEWED BY PEKING PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF ITS PERCEPTION OF THE US- SOVIET BALANCE OF POWER. IN THIS CONTEXT, PEKING UNDOUBETEDLY FAVORS A STRONG US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND TO THE EXTENT THAT DIEGO GARCIA CONTRIBUTES TO THE US DETERRENT ABILITY VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS, THE PRC QUIETLY FAVORS IT.

3. SINCE PRC LEADERS HAVE BEEN QUITE VOCAL IN URGING A STRONG WESTERN DETERRENT TO SOVIET EXPANSIONISM, WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO PROVIDING COMMITTEE WITH ABOVE ANALYSIS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO USLO.

4. WE HAVE REPEATED REFTEL TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG,

WHICH MAY BE COMMENTING FURTHER. BUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY BASES, DIEGO GARCIA
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Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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